

SHIP BOYCOTT THREAT IS HELD ONE BIG BLUFF

Is Not Expected to Change
United States Stand That
Merchant Vessels Must
Not be Armed.

ALLIES WOULD BE
THE ONES TO SUFFER

Practically All Atlantic Ships
Are Used in Carrying
Goods Necessary
For the Allies.

International News Service:
WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Threats
of a ship boycott by Great Britain
and her allies should this govern-
ment rule that armed merchantmen
shall be denied clearance papers
from American ports caused no con-
cern at the state department. There
attention is confidently called to the
trade reports, which disclose that so
far as British or French liners are
concerned—and they are the chief
freighters of the Atlantic—the man-
ifests filed at all ports of entry show
that the goods carried as such are
absolutely necessary for the bel-
ligerents. The British threat, it is
said, is looked upon as much of a
bluff and will not figure in the final
decision on the subject.

The big problem that the United
States must solve, and which is com-
pelling the attention of the president
and Secy Lansing, is the effect that
the changing at this time of a decision
affecting international law will have
upon the future interests of the
United States.

Had this government insisted that
all merchant vessels be disarmed at
the outset of the war, it is conceded
that this action would have had a
material effect on the Teutonic sub-
marine campaigns. To change now,
and deliberately reverse an earlier
ruling, might be used by Great Britain
as an excuse for demanding
changes in our commercial methods
and might even be used as an ex-
cuse for the present commercial and
mail blockade.

Studies German Ruling.

Secy Lansing has carefully studied
the German announcement that on
March 1 the Teutonic submarines
will sink all armed vessels without
warning. He has drafted a tenta-
tive communication outlining the po-
sition of this government on the sub-
ject. It flatly says that inasmuch as
vessels can be armed only for de-
fense against submarine attack,
these vessels take on the guise of
naval auxiliaries and should be
treated as such. He will discuss the
matter with the president in the
near future and then, if the execu-
tive approves, announcement of the
new policy will be communicated to
all of the belligerents.

Although the entente allies will
protest sharply against the new
ruling should it be made as now
seems likely, officials believe that
they will be compelled to accept it.
The United States holds the whip
hand. Its commerce with neutrals
cannot be interfered with inasmuch
as it is being conducted in neutral
vessels or with vessels operating
under American registry.

Should the British authorities en-
deavor to curtail the operation of
their shipping between the United
States and British and French ports,
it will be those nations that will
suffer, as practically everything car-
ried in that trade is used for war
purposes.

BRITISH NOT TO DISARM VESSELS

International News Service:
LONDON, Feb. 14.—England will
reject proposals made by the United
States that merchant vessels be dis-
armed. In taking this action Great
Britain will have the backing of all
the entente powers. This has been
determined by informal preliminary
conferences held by Sir Edward
Grey with representatives of the al-
lies in London, and formal affirma-
tion of the decision will be made at
a great war council to be held in
Paris in the near future.

The British government will never
abandon the position that it has
taken that the sinking of merchant
vessels without warning even if the
ships attacked carry arms for their
own defense, is contrary to the prin-
ciples of civilized warfare.

The general impression among the
people of England and in London
official circles is that the American
government intends to accept the ar-
gument of Germany.

HI SIBLEY TO SPEAK Will Deliver Intimate Talk on Can- non Halls and Such.

One of the special attractions at
the Chamber of Commerce reception
and smoker next Thursday evening
will be the illustrated war talk given
by Hi Sibley. The personal experi-
ences of this former member of The
News-Times staff on the battle fields
of Europe are very interesting. As
a member of the French ambulance
corps he had unusual opportunities
for observing the inner workings of
the allied forces. His photographs
are out of the ordinary and add
greatly to the interest. For several
months past he has been giving
these illustrated talks over the
middle west vaudeville circuits.
Thursday evening will be his first
appearance with the completed act
in South Bend.

ONLY 83 PERCENT GET PROMOTIONS

Record of Pupils Not What It
Should be, Says Supt.
Montgomery.

Only 83 per cent of the total num-
ber of school children in the public
schools were promoted at the end
of the semester that ended Jan. 21,
a record that is not what it should
be, according to Supt. L. J. Mont-
gomery. Out of a total enrollment
of 8,280 in all of the grades from
the kindergarten through the gram-
mar school, there were 6,889 chil-
dren who actually belonged to the
schools. Of this number 5,770 were
promoted to higher grades.
Of the 8,280 children, 390 had
permanently withdrawn by the end
of the semester. The other children
were considered as not belonging to
school, because they were out three
days. Enrollment in the high school
for the first semester was 1,026,
practically the same as it was last
year. An increase of 486 is shown
over last year's enrollment in the
grades.

Promotions Made.

During the semester 79 promo-
tions were made. The advancements
were made when pupils showed that
they were sufficiently intelligent to go
into higher classes. The 23 grade
led in special promotions, 29 having
been made in all of these classes in
the city.

Following are the promotion aver-
ages for the various grades: 1B, 77;
1A, 82; 2B, 88; 2A, 92; 3B, 85; 3A,
82; 4B, 84; 4A, 82; 5B, 79; 5A, 81;
6B, 82; 6A, 89; 7B, 73; 7A, 78; 8B,
85; 8A, 94. These figures show that
the children of the 4B grade did the
best work and those of 7B the poor-
est. The fact that both of the di-
visions of the eighth grade were
higher than any other is accounted
for in that the poorer students drop
out before they get to the eighth
grade. Averages in the high school
are even better than the eighth
grade for the same reason, accord-
ing to Supt. Montgomery.

Figures Are Given.

Following are figures showing the
enrollment by grades for the first
semester of this year: Kindergarten,
930; first, 1,467; second, 1,148;
third, 1,074; fourth, 947; fifth, 917;
sixth, 717; seventh, 568; eighth, 442;
vocational, 72; ungraded, 18. The
same semester of the preceding year
the following figures: Kinder-
garten, 930; first, 1,377; second,
1,099; third, 951; fourth, 928; fifth,
861; sixth, 688; seventh, 545; eighth,
413; vocational, 72.

These figures show that there is
an increase in every grade except the
first. The great difference in the
figures for the first and second
grades is accounted for by the large
new class for the children who are
forced to take the first grade work over
for the second time. This year there
were 227 repeaters in the first grade.
A dropping off of an even 200 stu-
dents between the fifth and sixth
grades shows that just about that
number of children left school to go
to work as soon as they had com-
pleted the compulsory educational
requirements.

COUNCIL WILL MEET

Short Session at City Hall Is Ex-
pected Tonight.

Indications are that the council
meeting tonight will be a very quiet
affair as there is but very little busi-
ness slated for the consideration of
the "city fathers." A petition will
be presented for naming the first
alley east of Park av., running south
from Riverside dr., to Duschane et.,
and another will come up providing
that the Indiana theater be given a
rebate upon its license.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Martha Beldenyer, plow fitter;
Victoria Sostonsit.
Frank Charles Morgenroth, phy-
sician, Chicago; Florence May Don-
ahue, Chicago.

TEUTONS SEEK WEAK SPOT IN FRENCH LINES

Offensive in West is Increasing
in Violence and is
Gradually Extending
Over Whole Front.

BULGARIAN TROOPS
ARE NEARING VALONA

Halt to Wait For Arrival of
Artillery—Hinted Bulgar-
ia May Desert Teu-
ton Allies.

International News Service:

PARIS, Feb. 14.—The German of-
fensive in the west is increasing in
violence and is gradually extending
over the greater part of the front.
The most severe fighting is in Ar-
tois, to the north of Arras, and in
Champagne, although the allies' po-
sitions in Flanders, south of the
Somme, in the Woivre district and
in the Vosges mountains have been
subjected to severe bombardment.
French military experts declare
that despite the numerous and vig-
orous German attacks, there is no
ground for alarm. It is generally
believed that the assaults at most of
the points on the front are "feelers"
to find a weak spot for a concentra-
ted onslaught.

French Are Confident.

"It is quite possible," one writer
says, "that the Germans may achieve
important successes, occupying ad-
vanced trenches of the allies, but con-
fidence is felt that, in the event the
Germans attempt a decisive engage-
ment at any point, they would be
hurled back with such severe losses
that they would never recover from
them."

In Artois, where Crown Prince
Rupprecht of Bavaria, has been di-
recting the German operations, the
Teutons have suffered enormous
losses from the accurate artillery
fire of the French. Despite their se-
vere casualties the Germans have
been unable to gain any ground in
the region north of Arras. In
Champagne where the Germans oc-
cupied advanced trenches of the
French between Ture and Somme-
py, counter attacks were launched
by the French before the Teutons
could fortify their new positions.

International News Service:

ATHENS, Feb. 14.—Bulgarian
troops have advanced from El Ba-
san and are nearing Valona, the Al-
banian seaport occupied by Italian
troops. Word reached here today
that the Bulgars on Saturday even-
ing occupied the town of Fieri, 31
miles north of Valona, but halted
there to await the arrival of artiller-
y before attacking the defenses
of Valona.

International News Service:

LONDON, Feb. 14.—An Athens
dispatch to the Evening Standard
states that definite political nego-
tiations have been opened for a change
of policy on the part of Bulgaria
that will make it favor the entente.

CAPTURE IS DENIED

Vienna Says Russ Report of Victo-
ries is a Falsehood.

International News Service:
VIENNA, Feb. 14 (Via Berlin and
Amsterdam).—The claim of the
Russian war office that Tselchoko in
Galicia, has been captured from the
Austro-Hungarians and that a pas-
sage of the Dnieper river has been
forced there by the Russians was
officially denied by the Austrian war
office today.

Official dispatches from Petro-
grad Thursday last reported that
Usciencko had been captured after a
series of siege attacks, and that the
Russians had crossed to the western
bank of the Dnieper at that point.

REPRISALS DEMANDED FOR AUSTRIAN RAID

International News Service:
ROME, Feb. 14.—Strong demands
for reprisals for the Austrian air
raid over Ravenna were printed to-
day by the Italian newspapers. It is
indignantly declared that the attack
against Ravenna was merely an at-
tempt at wanton destruction since
there are no military works there.
Signor Corrado Ricci, director-
general of the fine arts department,
says that it was only by a miracle
that the church of Saint Apollinare
was saved. Had the bombs fallen
20 feet further to the west the struc-
ture would have collapsed. This
church was erected in the year 549
to 538 and was consecrated in 549.
It was restored in 1778.

It is one of the most interest-
ing cities in western Europe con-
taining rich treasures of byzantine
art.

British Cruiser Hits Mine; Ten Sailors Missing

International News Service:

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The British
light cruiser Arethusa has been
wrecked by striking a mine and will
probably be a total loss. It was an-
nounced today by the admiralty.
Ten sailors on the cruiser lost
their lives.
The Arethusa displacement is
3,520 tons and she has been used
for patrol duty in the North sea.
She was armed with two six-inch
and six four-inch guns and four tor-
pedo tubes.
The Arethusa was put in com-
mission in 1912. She was 450 feet
long.

The following official statement
was given out by the admiralty:
"H. M. S. Arethusa, commanded
by Commodore Reginald Y. Try-
whitt, C. B., struck a mine off the
east coast of England (in the North
sea.) It is feared she is a total
wreck. About 10 men lost their
lives."

GAINS REPORTED BY PARIS AND BERLIN

Within 24 Hours Germans Have
Taken Nearly a Mile of
Trenches.

International News Service:

BERLIN, Feb. 14.—The gain of
700 yards more of French trenches
in Champagne was announced today
by the German war office.
Within 24 hours the Germans
have captured French positions
over a front nearly a mile wide in
Champagne.
In Artois the allies are carrying
out a violent cannonade.
In the Vosges 400 yards of French
trenches have been captured after
stubborn fighting.

International News Service:

PARIS, Feb. 14.—The capture of
German trenches south of Frie is
announced by the French war office
in an official communique today.
One hundred prisoners were made.
At Seppois in upper Alsace, the
Germans gained a foothold in the
French trenches over a front of 200
yards, but were driven out at nearly
all points by French counter-attacks.
(Seppois is at the extreme south
end of the battle front near the Swiss
frontier.)

SILK WORKERS RIOT

Twenty Men Are Cut and Clubbed
at Pawtucket, R. I.

International News Service:
PAWTUCKET, R. I., Feb. 14.—
Twenty men were cut and clubbed
in a riot among operatives at the
Royal Wadding Co's silk mill today,
caused by the refusal of some of the
operatives to go out on a second
strike. The rioters broke machinery
before they were dispersed by the
police.
The 900 operatives had been
back working a week after striking.
The discharge today of two of the
strike committee caused some of the
operatives to start out. Refusal of
others to go out caused the riot.

GLOVE FIRM IS GUILTY

International News Service:
LONDON, Feb. 14.—Withdrawing
the previous plea of not guilty, the
glove making firm of Fowkes Brothers
Co., of New York and London, today
pleaded guilty to the charge of
trading with the enemies of Eng-
land. They were accused of having
dealings with German merchants
since the war began.

Latest in the News World

ZEPP SINKING.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 14.—Zepp-
lin L-26, the German airship which
was reported to be helpless above
the North sea yesterday, fell into
the water today, according to a dis-
patch from Esbjerg. It was said to
be slowly sinking with the crew
clinging to the superstructure.

BOMBARD MILAN.

BERLIN, Feb. 14.—Austrian aero-
planes bombarded Milan from the
air on Sunday night, it was an-
nounced today. Six persons were
killed.

RECEIVE DECREE.

International News Service:
WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Austria-
Hungary's formal decree to
treat all armed merchantmen as
war vessels after March 1 and sink
them without warning, was received
at the state department today.

BERLIN PROTESTS.

International News Service:
WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Col.
E. M. House, Pres. Wilson's per-
sonal emissary to Europe, will bring
back with him the last of this month
a sharp protest from the German
government on the United States
censorship of German wirele com-
munication, it was learned today.

PLANT BURNING.

International News Service:
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 14.—
Fire, which started in a carpenter

POLICE HUNT DRUGGIST WHO SOLD POISON

Will Visit Every Drug Store in
Chicago to Prove That Or-
pet Bought Drug
Used by Girl.

DEAD GIRL'S MOTHER
PLEADS FOR ACCUSED

Prosecution Will Not Bring
Daughter Back—Letter
That Lured Girl to Her
Death Made Public.

International News Service:

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—The
story of the Marian Lambert
tragedy, told easily by William
H. Orpet, University of Wisconsin
student, was told to his to-
day by the startling information
that a few hours before he left
Madison, Wis., to keep the fatal
tryst with the 17-year-old Lake
Forest high school girl in
Helm's woods, he purchased an
empty two-ounce bottle in a drug
store in the college city.

International News Service:

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—Armed with
photographs of William H. Orpet,
University of Wisconsin student,
charged with the murder of pretty
Marian Lambert, the high school
girl found dead in the woods near
the fashionable suburb of Lake For-
est, detectives today started to visit
every drug store in Chicago in an
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International News Service:

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—Arrest of
Jean Cronos, missing assistant chef
of the University club, who is sus-
pected of having attempted to kill
more than 150 prominent Catholic
clergymen and other guests at the
banquet celebrating the installation
of Archbishop George W. Mundelein,
was expected today. Detectives
have established that Cronos is an
anarchist, an anti-Catholic and an
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Starts Fund to Buy Battleship



NEW YORK.—More than \$60, in-
cluding \$1 from former Pres't Roos-
evelt, has been contributed to the
fund started by Miss Marjorie Ster-
rett, a 13-year-old school girl, to
build a new U. S. battleship to be
called the America.

Miss Sterrett conceived the idea
of building a sea fighter for Uncle

Sam's navy from dimes contributed
by school children all over the coun-
try. The contributions are pouring
in from every quarter of the Union
and some have been received from
Canada. Navy officials are interest-
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